

**Office of Insular Affairs
Office Contingency Plan for Government Shutdown**

The Office of Insular Affairs maintains operations in Washington, DC, with field offices in Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Personnel are also assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Majuro, Marshall Islands, and at the Labor Ombudsman's Office in Saipan.

The OIA has 43 employees on board, including 4 temporary employees/interns. This number also includes 2 judges of the American Samoa judiciary. We are proposing that 3 employees be designated as excepted and 1 employee be available to return to work in the event of an emergency involving the protection of human life or property.

The OIA contingency plan includes designating the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, Compact of Free Association Economic Assistance, Covenant CIP Grants, and the CNMI Ombudsman Office as essential activities. This will require designating 2 excepted personnel in addition to the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, a presidential appointee.

Part 1. Designation of Essential Programs/Activities:

<u>Essential Activities</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Justification for Excepted Designation</u>
Office of the Assistant Secretary	Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas	Presidential appointee
Compact of Free Association Economic Assistance (Permanent Appropriation)	Assistance payments to Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.	U.S. is bound by treaty obligations to provide financial assistance to health, education, infrastructure, and other grants to these freely associated states. Failure to make payments would shut down education and health systems, and would create serious economic disruption in these island nations and are a violation of terms of this international agreement.
Covenant CIP Grants (mandatory appropriation)	Insular Area Capital improvement projects	U.S. insular areas have on-going construction programs requiring contractual payments funded by existing grants. Failure to provide Federal funds will seriously affect island governments' cash flow and may create financial penalties and defaults.

Part 2. Designation of Excepted Personnel:

<u>Title and Function</u>	<u>Justification for Excepted Designation</u>
Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas	Presidential appointee
Director of Technical Assistance	Will maintain payments for Compact of Free Association and required budget execution activities.
Grant Manager	Will act as staff assistant to AS and will maintain payments for Covenant CIP payments

Part 3. Activities/Personnel that would continue:

<u>Name of Activities</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
Office of Assistant Secretary	Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas	Assistance to Territories Appropriation for S&E
Compact of Free Association Economic Assistance	Treaty required payments	Assistance to Territories Appropriation for S&E
Covenant CIP	Grant payments	Assistance to Territories Appropriation for S&E
CNMI Labor Ombudsman	Labor and Community intermediary	Assistance to Territories Appropriation for Technical Assistance

Employee On Call

<u>Title and Function</u>	<u>Justification for Excepted Designation</u>
Labor Ombudsman	Point of Contact and intermediary for non-resident laborers and local community in the CNMI. Would be available to address an emergency involving protection of human life or property.